

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by ZHANG et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,396,833); rejects claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over ZHANG et al. in view of NOMURA et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2001/0019554); allows claims 10-12 and 17-20; and objects to claim 3 as allowable if rewritten into independent form.

By way of the present amendment, Applicants propose canceling claims 2, 3, 6-9, and 13-16 without prejudice or disclaimer and amending claim 1 to improve form. Claims 1, 4, 5, 10-12, and 17-20 would be pending upon entry of the present amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 10-12 and 17-20 are allowable over the art of record. Moreover, Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by ZHANG et al. While not acquiescing in this rejection, Applicants propose canceling claims 2, 6, 7, and 13 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot. Applicants also propose amending claim 1 to include the features of claims 2 and 3, thus putting claim 1 in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over ZHANG et al. in view of NOMURA et al. Applicants propose canceling claims 8, 9, 14 and 15 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

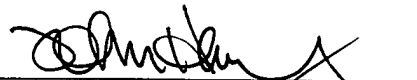
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicants respectfully request that the present amendment be entered because the present amendment places the application in immediate condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY SNYDER, L.L.P.

By:



John E. Harrity
Registration No. 43,367

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11350 Random Hills Road
Suite 600
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(571) 432-0800

Customer Number: 44987